

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 804

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dr. Donald D. Ryder on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable person is Dr. Donald D. Ryder, who serves as an Associate Professor of Music, Director of Bands at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK) and will be taking his much-deserved retirement on June 30, 2022; and

WHEREAS, overseeing the entire UT Band program, Dr. Ryder serves as the WJ Julian Professorship Director of Bands, works extensively with the Pride of the Southland Marching Band, conducts the UT Wind Ensemble, and teaches graduate instrumental conducting; and

WHEREAS, a member of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville faculty since 1999, Dr. Ryder previously served as an associate professor of music and helped with the marching band until he was named interim director in October 2013; he was named full director of bands in February 2015; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Director of Bands, Dr. Ryder has secured scholarship funding for every student in the Pride of the Southland Marching Band, prioritized the completion of a new practice facility, and directed the band alongside such illustrious artists as Kenny Rogers, Deena Carter, the Charlie Daniels Band, and many more; and

WHEREAS, prior to his employment at UT, he was a member of the faculty at Sam Houston State University in Texas and had taught public school instrumental music in Ohio and Iowa for numerous years; his marching and concert bands received national recognition for superior levels of musicianship and performance; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald Ryder grew up in Pleasant Hill, Ohio, and earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Bowling Green State University, a Master of Music Education

degree from the University of Iowa, and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Wind Conducting from the University of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, a respected clinician, adjudicator, and guest conductor in the field of instrumental music education, Dr. Ryder is a member of the College Band Directors Association, the National Band Association, the American School Band Directors Association, the East Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association, and the Tennessee Music Educators Association; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Dr. Donald Ryder was recognized by the American School Band Directors as the top high school band director in the country in 1991 and was presented the coveted Stanbury Award; he was inducted into the Newton High School Hall of Fame in 2003 and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Bowling Green State University in 2006; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Dr. Donald Ryder has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his students, his peers, the fans of the Big Orange Nation, and everyone associated with the University of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Dr. Donald D. Ryder our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.